

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed September 26, 2003. Claims 1-49 are pending in the present application. The Examiner rejects Claims 1-49. For the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully disagree with these rejections. Claims 1, 11, 21, 31, 40, and 43 have been amended to further clarify what Applicants consider to be the invention. Claims 2-3, 12-13, 24-25, 32-33, and 44-45 have been cancelled. New Claims 50-54 have been added.

Consideration of Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants submitted an Information Disclosure Statement dated August 19, 2003. Pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 609, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider the art cited in the August 19, 2003 Information Disclosure Statement, and in the event a patent issues on this Application, that this art be printed on the face of the issued patent. A copy of the Applicants' August 19, 2003 Information Disclosure Statement and a copy of the PTO-1449 attached thereto is enclosed with this response for the Examiner's consideration. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully request a copy of the PTO Form-1449 for the Information Disclosure Statement indicating the Examiner's consideration of the references.

In addition, Applicants submitted an Information Disclosure Statement dated June 27, 2003. A copy of the PTO-1449 for the June 27, 2003 Information Disclosure Statement was returned to the Applicants with the Final Office Action, but the references considered were not initialed by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner initial all references that were considered by the Examiner in the Final Office Action and return a copy of the initialed PTO-1449 to the Applicants.

Rejections Under §103

The Examiner rejects Claims 1, 4-11, 14-23, 26-31, 34-40, 42-43, and 46-49 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent 6,259,701 issued to Shur, et al. ("Shur"). In addition, the Examiner rejects Claims 2, 12, 24, 32, and 44 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Shur* in view of U.S. Patent 6,477,169 issued to Angle, et al. ("Angle"). Furthermore, the Examiner rejects Claims 3, 13, 25, 33, 41, and 45 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Shur* in view of U.S. Patent 5,963,547 issued to O'Neil, et al. ("O'Neil").

Shur discloses a multicast-unicast server (MUS) positioned between a multicast network and a unicast network. (*Shur*, Abstract). The server contains information regarding what

sessions are available on the multicast network and makes that information available to the unicast network. (*Shur*, Abstract). The MUS acts as a gateway between the multicast network and the unicast network to enable unicast clients to access the multicast network. (*Shur*, Col. 3; Lines 32-36). The MUS is able to convert the address of the multicast data packets to the address of a unicast client to receive those packets. (*Shur*, Col. 3; Lines 42-45). The MUS transmits packets from the unicast client to the multicast group address to enable the multicast network to receive unicast packets. (*Shur*, Col. 3; Lines 45-54).

Claim 1, as amended, of the present application recites the following:

A method for enabling a multicast telecommunication session, comprising:

generating a virtual multicast intermediary;

receiving multicast media streaming sent to a multicast group address from a plurality of multicast telephony devices at a the virtual multicast intermediary;

sorting the multicast media streaming sent to the multicast group address into individual streams based on the telephony devices that originated each stream;

communicating the sorted media streaming to a unicast telephony device to enable the unicast telephony device to participate in a multicast telecommunication session; and

indicating to the unicast telephony device that the individual media streams of the sorted media streaming originated from different telephony devices.

Claims 11, 21, 31, 40, and 43, as amended, recite similar, although not identical, limitations.

Independent Claims 1, 11, 21, 31, 40, and 43, as amended, are Allowable over Shur in view of Angle

Claim 1, as amended, recites: 1) sorting the multicast media streaming sent to the multicast group address into individual streams based on the telephony devices that originated each stream, and 2) indicating to the unicast telephony device that the individual media streams of the sorted media streaming originated from different telephony devices. Claims 21, 31, 40, and 43 recite similar, although not identical, limitations.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner noted, with respect to cancelled Claims 2, 12, 24, 32, and 44, that *Shur* fails to teach sorting the media. However, the Examiner states that

Angle discloses sorting multicast data in order to provide a schedule. (Final Office Action, page 7, ¶3, citing *Angle*, Col. 2; Lines 20-33). However, the scheduling accomplished by the *Angle* invention is not equivalent to the sorting of the present application. *Angle* schedules both multicast and unicast data transmissions *based on the priority of a particular class of service*, as well as scheduling transmissions *based on priorities within each class*. (*Angle*, Col. 7; Lines 58-60 and Col. 11; Lines 19-21). In contrast, the present application sorts the multicast media at the virtual multicast intermediary [based on the telephony device that originated the data packets included in the multicast media stream.] Furthermore, neither *Shur*, *Angle*, nor *O'Neil*, whether considered alone or in combination, disclose indicating to the unicast telephony device that the individual media streams of the sorted media streaming originate from different telephony devices, as recited in Claim 1, and similarly, although not identically, in Claims 11, 21, 31, 40, and 43.

For at least these reasons, Applicants believe that Claims 1, 11, 21, 31, 40, and 43 are allowable over the cited references. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1, 11, 21, 31, 40, and 43, and all claims that depend from those claims.

Dependent Claims 5, 35, 46 are Allowable over Shur

Claim 5 recites, in part, "associating a first logical port of the multicast intermediary with the unicast telephony device" and "modifying source address information in the received multicast media streaming to specify a second logical port of the multicast intermediary associated with the multicast group address." Claims 35 and 46 recite similar, although not identical, limitations. The Examiner states that these elements are disclosed in *Shur*. (Final Office Action, page 3, ¶4). *Shur* discloses that the MUS converts the address of the multicast IP packets of requested information to the unicast IP endpoint address of the requesting client. (*Shur*, Col. 3; Lines 33-54, Col. 5; Lines 9-20, Col. 8; Lines 5-15). In addition, *Shur* discloses that the MUS translates the multicast address of packets received from the joined group and translates that multicast address to the unicast address of the joining client. (*Shur*, Col. 4; Lines 38+) These provisions of *Shur* merely disclose address translation between the multicast address and the unicast address. At most, *Shur* implies that a port on its MUS can be linked to an IP address of a unicast device. (*Shur*, Col. 7; Lines 63-66). However, *Shur* fails to disclose specifying a second logical port of the *multicast intermediary* associated with the multicast group address.

For at least this additional reason, Applicants believe that Claims 5, 35, and 46 are allowable over the cited reference. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 5, 35, and 46 and all claims that depend from those claims, including dependent Claims 6-7, 36-37, and 47-49.

New Dependent Claims 50-54 are Allowable over the Cited References

New dependent Claims 50-54 depend from, and incorporate all of the limitations of, independent Claims 1, 11, 21, 31, and 43, respectively, which have been shown to be allowable over the cited references for the reasons discussed above. Furthermore, new dependent Claim 50 recites indicating a different logical port of the multicast intermediary as the source address of packets comprising each of the individual media streams. Claims 51-54 recite similar, although not identical, limitations. For reasons analogous to those discussed above with reference to Claim 5, this limitation is clearly not taught by *Shur*, *Angle*, or *O'Neil*, whether considered alone or in combination.

For at least these reasons, new dependent Claims 50-54 are also allowable over the cited references. Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of Claims 50-54.

CONCLUSION

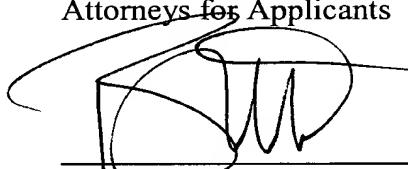
Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this application in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and full allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact Brian W. Oaks, Attorney for Applicants, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6986.

Although Applicants believe that no fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts, L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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